



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**MAYOR DICK MURPHY
Science and Technology Commission
MEETING MINUTES**

The San Diego Science and Technology Commission (SDS&TC) held a meeting on February 16, 2005 hosted by Community and Economic Development located at 600B Street,
San Diego, CA 92101.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Dr. Martha Dennis, SDS&TC Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. Members present: Dr. Martha Dennis, Kristopher Lichter, Susan Myrland, Tyler Orion, and Julie Meier Wright. Members absent: Craig Andrews, Dr. Hui Cai, Daniel Chang, Jon Cohen, Scott Corlett, Dr. Tom Dillon, Charles Holland, Dr. Gail Naughton, Marc Nemer, Scott Randall, Craig Roberts, Carrie Stone, and Maurice Wilson. Community & Economic Development Department staff members: Hank Cunningham, Toni Dillon, Russ Gibbon, Tina Hines, and Jeff Kawar. Others Present: Mr. Leslie Overman..
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment and the Commission moved on to Agenda item III.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR:** December 1, 2004
(MOTION/Dennis/Myrland/UNANIMOUS)
- IV. **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAFF UPDATE:** There was no staff update and the Commission moved on to Agenda item V.
- V. **LEGISLATION IMPACTING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**
 - A. **Presenter, Ms. Julie Meier Wright Prop (71) California Institute for Regenerative Medicine Update – The San Diego Connection:** Ms. Meier Wright stated that several organizations including EDC, Biocom, Connect, Invitrogene, SAIC and the City of San Diego are developing an aggressive proposal to locate the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) in San Diego. This San Diego Red Team is preparing the San Diego response to the “Draft” Request for Proposal (RFP). It was expected that the final RFP would be released on February 7, 2005; however, this release has been delayed because the State's General Services Department (GSD) is reviewing the proposal for consistency with GSD policy and protocol.

Ms. Wright noted that the San Diego facility identified to house the CIRM is located in the heart of the biotech community of Torrey Pines. The San Diego Red Team assumes competing proposals will be submitted by the cities of San Francisco, Emeryville and Sacramento. For locating the CIRM facility in San Francisco, it expected that the City of San Francisco proposal will include the offer of a “full service” no-cost lease. To respond to this large incentive offered

by San Francisco, the San Diego Team's highly competitive strategy includes enlisting the Mayor and prominent business interests to help raise \$2 to \$3 million to subsidize a private-sector "no cost" facility.

When discussion concluded, Ms. Orion moved that the Commission authorize, Dr. Martha Dennis, as Chair of the Science and Technology Commission, to endorse a letter of support joining other policy and trade organizations in favor of locating the CIRM in San Diego. This endorsement would be included in the San Diego Proposal. Specifically, the endorsement would note the benefits of the Torrey Pines facility and the intent of signing organizations' to provide on going support of the CIRM if located in San Diego (MOTION/Orion/Mryland/UNANIMOUS).

- B. Summary of the Trade Organization meeting with Andrew Poat: Dr. Dennis stated that on January 4, 2004 attendees from AEA, BIOCOM, the San Diego Telecom Council, San Diego Chamber of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, and the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation met with City Governmental Relations Department Director Andrew Poat. The focus of the dialogue was issues and legislation that affect San Diego companies. An important outcome of the meeting was enhanced communication between trade organizations and the City Governmental Relations Department.

VI. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

- A. Science and Technology for Economic Prosperity Update: Dr. Martha Dennis announced the completion of the STEP Forum Summary Report. She recapped the following issues contained in the report; 1) addressing the growing talent squeeze and providing affordable housing; 2) dealing with quality of life issues, specifically transportation and education; 3) streamlining government processes; 4) Building the visibility and influence of the technology industries locally and globally.

Upon the conclusion of the discussion, Dr. Dennis encouraged the Commissioners to review the recommendations that correspond to the issues addressed in the STEP Forum Summary Report. Dr. Dennis moved that the Science and Technology Commission approve the finalized STEP Forum Report (MOTION/Dennis/Orion/UNANIMOUS).

- B. Presenter: Tyler Orion, "An Examination of the Impact of San Diego's Digital Divide on Regional Economic Prosperity" (Digital Divide Report): Ms. Orion summarized that for the Digital Divide Report the "digital divide" was defined as the extent to which individuals, families, and communities are not able to fully participate in society and control their own destinies relative to computer literacy and internet access. She presented survey findings stating that 29.6 % of San Diegans without a home computer stated that they have no access to computers or the internet. In addition, that home computer ownership and internet access continues to be correlated with income and ethnicity.

Ms. Orion elaborated that an objective of this Report was to illustrate the nexus of computer literacy and workforce readiness to “digital inclusion.” She noted the following five industries as the fastest growing clusters in terms of new job opportunities; 1) Business Services; 2) Communications/Telecom; 3) Defense and Transportation Manufacturing; 4) Medical Services; 5) Software and Computer Services. The San Diego Workforce Partnership projects 28,000 new jobs in these growth clusters. Due to lack of computer literacy, this report estimated that nearly 14,000 San Diegans will potentially miss out on these new jobs. Lost wages correlated with these 14,000 jobs is \$366,635,838 annually. This figure was based on an entry level salary of \$26,237.

Ms. Orion concluded with the following recommendations for City government to bolster computer literacy: 1) designate a Community Technology Officer; 2) support and promote local free wireless initiatives such as city libraries; 3) help community technology centers link with libraries, schools, and community service centers to share computer access and resources; 4) aid in the addressing community members fear of computers through the City’s website and online services; 5) investigate approaches to offering low cost internet access by partnering with cable companies, utilities, and foundations; 6) incorporate technology training in CDBG and other grant programs.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr. Dennis suggested the Digital Inclusion Work Group (DWIG) should reconvene. Although Ms. Julie Meier Wright moved that the Commission accept the final report from the San Diego Regional Technology Alliance, because Ms. Orion recused herself from the vote the motion could not be carried for lack of a quorum.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS: The next meeting will be April 20, 2005 from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business of the Commission; this meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.